

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/065 W

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R 081608Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8655

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINR EG

SUBJ: ELECTION WRAP UP

REF: CAIRO 15231 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY : PRO-GOVERNMENT CENTER PLATFORM HAS SWEPT PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY EELCTION WITH MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF SEATS IN
RUSULTS WHICH CLOSELY APPROXIMATE GOE EXPECTATIONS. IMPARTIALLY
CONDUCTED ELECTIONS TOOK TOOL OF PRO-GOVERNMENT NOTABLES
ALTHOUGH ALL CABINET MEMBERS RETURNED. CONDUCT AND RESULTS
OF ELECTION GIVE BOOST TO SADAT'S POLICY OF POLITICAL
LIBERALIZATION AND PRESENT HIS OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE LEGISLATIVE
LEGITIMACY FOR HIS POLICIES. CENTER IN HARDLY HOMOGENOUS
"PARTY" , BUT WE EXPECT ITS LEADER, PRIMIN SALIM, TO KEEP IT
IN LINE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RUN-OFF ELECTIONS, CENTER PLATFORM , ARAB SOCIALIST

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ORGANIZATION OF EGYPT (ASOE) HAS TAKEN 280 OF 342 SEATS UP

FOR GRABS (OVER 80 PERCENT, SOCLIAIST LIBERAL ORGANIZATION (SLO), RIGHTIST, HAVE DONE SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN EXPECTED WITH 12 VICTORIES (3.5 PERCENTL) , WHILE LEFT'S UNIONIST PROGREEISVE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UPNO) WON ONLY TWO SEATS, INDEPENDENTS WON 48 MEMBERS , MANY OF WHOM CAN BE EXPECTED TO IDENTIFY WITH CENTER.

2. ALL CABINET OFFICERS WHO ALSO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WERE RETURNED, ALTHOUGH SOME NOT WITHOUT A TOUGH STRUGGLE. OTHER GOVERNMENT NOTABLES , AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, FOUND THEIR POSITIONS TO BE NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS. LATEST IDENTIFIED PROMINENT LOSERS FROM THESE RANKS WERE ABDEL HAMID HASSA, MUCH LIMELIGHTED CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S YOUTH AND SPORTS COUNCIL AND MUSTAFA ABU ZAYD, CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL PETITIONS OFFICE. YUSUF MIKKADI, MENUFIYA GOVERNORATE'S HIGHLY-INFLUENTIAL ASU SECRETARY WHO RAN FOR CENTER, WAS DEFEATED BY MUSTAFA AMR, INDEPENDENT WHOSE MAJOR DISTINCTION IS HE IS BROTHER OF LATE VICE PRESIDENT FIELD MARSHALL AMR. ANOTHER CENTER LOSER WAS GIZA INCUMBENT ALI SAWAT RAUF, MRS. SADAT'S BROTHER, DEFEATED AS WORKER CANDIDATED BY ANOTHER CENTER CANDIDATE FROM SAME SEAT. SOME OBSERVERS QUIPT THAT HIS FORTUNE WOULD HAVE FARED BETTER HAD HIS SISTEN NOT BEE OUT OF THE COUNTRY DURING ELECTION, BUT PAPERS HAVE NOT FAILED TO POINT OUR RESULTS AS PROFF THAT GOE CODNDUCTED ELECTION IMPARTIALLY.

3. INDEPENDENT RANKS CONTINUE TO SURFACT IMPORTANT FIGURES FROM PAST. MOMTAZ NASSAR, PROMINENT JURIST WHO WAS DISMISSED BY " CENTERS OF POWR" IN 1969 (MASSACRE OF JUDICIARY", HAS RETURNED TO PUBLIC LIFE AS SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE, DEFEATING UNDISTINGUISHED CENTERIST. ABDEL FATAH PASH HASSAN, PROMINENT WAFDIST WHO WAS MININT AND MINWAR BEFORE REVOLUTION IS OTHER SUCH FIGURE. IN ORDER INTERESTING REUSLT, HEAD OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET FIRENDSHIP SOCIETY ABDESLAM ZAYAT, WHO RAN AS INDEPENDENT, LOS T TO CENTER CANDIDATE IN RUN OFF.

4. AMONGST INDEPENDENTS, INFLUENTIAL HILMI IS RUMORED TO BE PLANNING TO DEVELOP SUBSTANTIAL POWER PASBE WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTER RANKS. THIS STORY HAS GOE CONSIDERING NEUTRAIZING HIS WITH OFFER OF CABINET POST. MEANWHILE, OBSERVERS EXPECT INDEPENDENT ELECTEE AND ORIGINAL RCC MEMBER KAMAL AL-DIN HUSSAIN TO EMERGE AS LEADER OF PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION IN VIEW OF HIS PERSONAL CLOUT AND PAST OUTSPOKENNESS.

5. SECOND UPNO VICTOR, SAVING KHALID MUHI AL -DIN FROM EMBARRASSING SOLITUDE ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR, IS ABBARI

ABDALLAH ABDELHALIM, WORKER INCUMBENT WHO NOW RETURNS TO
LEGISLATIVE IN LEFTIST STRIPES.

6. WOMEN DID LESS THAN IN OUTGOING ASSEMBLY, DROPPING
FROM 8 TO THREE SEATS. THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE HERE, HOWEVER.

7. COMMENT: ELECTIONS WRE BY ALL REPORTS FAIRLY CONDUCTED
BY GOE, ALTHOUGH IT HARDLY ENCOURAGED NEUTRAL PRESS
COVERAGE. GOE ALSO CONTROVED TO OVERLOOK IMPROPER USE OF
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES BY SOME INCUMBENTS AS WELL AS CERTAIN
GROSS IRREGULARITIES IN CAPAIGN FINANCING . NEVERTHELESS,
THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SQUAKING OVER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS
OF HONEST VOTE COUNT, ELECTION RESULTS CLEARLY A SHOT
IN THE ARM FOR SADAT'S POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION POLICY.
GOE CAN BE EXPECTED HENCEFORTH TO SWELL ON THIER NATIONAL
REPUDICATION OF LEFT WHEN NEED ARISES AND TO TRY TO LAY
TO REST IN LEGISLTATURE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES SUCH AS "OPEN DOOR"
ECONOMIC POLICY AND RIGHT TO STRIKE.

8. CENTER ORGANIZATION IS, OF COURSE, MOST THINGS TO MOST
MEN AND NOT HOMOGENEOUS. NEVERTHELESS, ITS ADHERENTS HAVE
PLACED THEMSELVES ON RECORD AS SUPPORTERS OF GOE'S VIETWS,
AND ARE NOW MEMBERS OF QUASI- PARTY WITH NO-NONSENSE LEADER,
PRIMIN SALMIM. WE EXPECT HIM TO BE ABLE TO KEEPT THEM IN
LINE IN ASSEMBLY VOTES, ALTHOUGH THIS WILL DOUBTLESSLY
REQUIRE SOME CONCESSIONS. THE PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO
COOPERATE BY DOWNPLAYING SIGNS OF CRACKS IN ASOE FACADE.
GOE IS NOT, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TO STIFLE DEBATE OF
ISSUE.

9. WHILE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BE EENDOWED WITH TRAPPING OF
DEMOCRACY THERE IS NO SERIOUS EXPECTATION HERE THAT
ASSEMBLY HAS INTENTION OF COMPETING WITH SADAT IN DETERMINING
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A NATIONAL PROIRITIES OR CREATING MAJOR POLICY.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO15335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760416-0403
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761171/aaaacjyw.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 15231
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION WRAP UP
TAGS: PINT, PINR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006